

Message Text

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TAGS: TECH, EEC

SUBJECT: EC MULTIANNUL RESEARCH PROGRAM

1. ON MAY 6, THE COMMISSION APPROVED A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM FOR APPROXIMATELY 374 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (M.U.A. WHERE ONE U.S IS CURRENTLY EQUIVALENT TO DOLS 1.12), TO COVER WORK ACTIVITIES AT THE FOUR EUROPEAN RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENTS (GEEL,ISPRA,KARLSRUHE, AND PETTEN) COMPRESING THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTERS (JRC). DETAILS ARE PRESENTED INTHE EUROPEAN COMMITY REPORT COM (76)171 FINAL, DATED 5 MAY 1976, " PROPOSAL FOR A MULTIANNUL RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTER, 1977-80." A COPY OF THE REPORT IS BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND,THE JRC WAS CREATED IN 1958 AS PART OF THE EURATOM TREATY TO SUPPLEMENT NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES IN JUNE OF 1973,THE JRC ACTIVITIES WERE EXTENDED TO COVER NON- NUCLEAR AREAS OF INVESTIGATION VIA A MULTIANNUL PROGRAM WHICH WILL END ON THE 31ST OF DECEMBER 1976. THE 1973 DECISION FOR THE JRC RESULTED IN A BUDGET OF APPROXIMATELY 178.7 M.U. A. BEING AUTHORIZED FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD.

3. THE JRC PROGRAM PROPOSED TO THE COUNCIL COMPRESSES THE FOLLOWING
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MMAJOR AREAS INCORPORATING TEN ACTIVITIES:

- (A) "CLASSICAL" NUCLEAR ENERGY,INCLUDING: REACTOR SAFETY;
NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT; AND PLUTONIUM
FUELS AND ACTINIDE RESEARCH.
- (B) FUTURE ENERGIES,INCLUDING: SOLAR; HYDROGEN AND CONCEPTUAL
STUDIES ON THERMONUCLEAR FUSION REACTORS
- (C) ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES
- (D) PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

THE LATTER COVERS MAINLY OPERATION OF THE COMMUNITY HFR REACTOR
AT PETTEN AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GEEL ESTABLISHMENT BUREAU FOR
NUCLEAR MEASUREMENTS.

4. FOUR-YEAR FUNDING SUPPORTS APPROXIMATELY 1700 SCIENTIFIC
AND TECHNICAL STAFF A BREAKDOWN OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF
EFFORT AMONG THE PROGRAM COMPONENTS MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

NUCLEAR SAFETY	- 48 PERCENT
NEW ENERGIES	- 12 PERCENT
ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES	- 10 PERCENT
REFERENCE MEASUREMENTS	
STANDARDS AND TECHNIQUES	- 17 PERCENT
SERVICE ACTIVITIES	- 13 PERCENT

THEREFORE,IN SUMMARY,ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL JRC EFFORT
IS IN THE
FIELD OF ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT,WHILE THE REMAINING 30
PERCENT IS DEVOTED TO JRC PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES.

5. IT MAY BE NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS OTHER ENERGY RELATED
PROGRAM PLANS THAN THE "DIRECT" ONES COVERED IN THE REFERENCE
DOCUMENT SPECIFICALLY,CAN BE MENTIONED THE 265 M.U.A. JOINT
EUROPEAN TAURUS (JET) PROGRAM, STILL UNDER COUNCIL DEBATE,AND AN
APPROVED FOUR-YEAR APPROXIMATE 60 M.U. A PROGRAM IN THE FUTURE
ENERGIES AREA WHICH COMPRISES SOLAR,GEOTHERMAL, HYDROGEN,ENERGY
CONSERVATION AND ANALYTICAL MODELING (REF COM(75)535 FINAL,
DATED OCTOBER 29, 1976). PARTICIPATION IN THESE PROGRAMS IS NOT
RESTRICTED TO THE JRC.
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